

step of protecting the transparent opening section with a resist material; a step of forming the reflecting surface; a step for metal film coating a spring operating part to the rear from the hook-shaped section and a step of removing the resist material, and submit that claims 1-2 are readable on the elected species.

REMARKS

In the last Action, restriction was required among Species I, II and III. The Examiner stated that the three species are patentably distinct from each other, thereby making restriction proper. Applicants were required to elect one of the three species for further prosecution in this application and to list all claims readable on the elected species.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants have provisionally elected the species of invention designated as Species I, drawn to performing steps in the order of: a step of sharpening the light-propagating probe body in a hook-shaped; a metal film coating step for forming the transparent opening section; a step of protecting the transparent opening section with a resist material; a step of forming the reflecting surface; a step for metal film coating a spring operating part to the rear from the hook-shaped section and a step of removing the resist material, and list

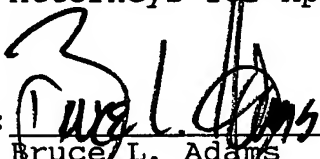
claims 1-2 as being readable on the elected species. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal of the restriction requirement or allowance of a generic or sub-generic claim.

Applicants submit that claim 1 is generic to all three species, and it is applicants' understanding that the restriction requirement will be withdrawn as to claims directed to species readable on an allowed generic or sub-generic claim.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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OCTOBER 27, 2005

Date